

Dicamba Evidence Desk Statement

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Statement:

EPA will consider all the applicable available lines of evidence to inform our decision whether to continue to allow the over-the-top use of dicamba. We hope to complete this work shortly, and our goal is to make a decision about the availability of this tool going forward so that growers have sufficient time to plan for the 2019 growing season.

Background:

While most pesticide registrations are not time-limited, when EPA determines it is necessary to meet its legal obligations, the Agency grants time-limited pesticide registrations. In this case, EPA placed a 2-year limit on the dicamba pesticide products ~~{{Xtendimax with Vapor Grip Technology (EPA Reg. No. 524-617); Engenia Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 7969-345); and DuPont's FeXapan Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-913)}}~~ registered for use on soybean and cotton crops that have been genetically engineered to tolerate dicamba once the plants have emerged ("over the top"). ~~EPA placed t~~This time limitation was placed on the registrations to allow the Agency ~~us~~ either to let ~~it~~them expire or to work with the registrants to make necessary changes in the registration to address concerns about adverse effects information related to the application of these products related to ~~and~~ potential off-target movement.

The first registration expiration date will occur on November 9, 2018, unless EPA determines that ~~allowing extending~~ the registration to be extended meets applicable legal standards. ~~EPA We~~ intends to make ~~its our~~ decision in time to help inform growers' seed purchase choices. ~~We will base t~~This decision ~~on will include~~ multiple lines of evidence, including collaboration with growers, states, and registrants. EPA continues to gather information to inform this decision and will use all available evidence when evaluating dicamba registrations. EPA has not predetermined its decision – all regulatory options are on the table.

EPA is aware of reports of off-target crop damage (e.g., non-GE soybean and cotton, ornamental gardens, and other non-target plants) that may be related to the use of dicamba. We are reviewing the current use restrictions on the labels for these dicamba formulations in light of the incidents that have been reported this year and in 2017. EPA is using the best available information from several sources to develop a decision that balances protection of the environment with the benefits ~~of~~ this technology ~~offers to~~ growers for weed control and crop production. EPA will consider both quantitative and qualitative information to ~~formulate a~~make our decision. ~~As a result, EPA We are~~is working closely with academia, growers, state officials, weed management experts, industry, and the public ~~in order to~~ gather available information that helps us understand the circumstances that may contribute to any off-field drift incidents, including:

- incident data,
- yield information (or potential impacts on yield),
- off-target impacts to plants, including non-dicamba-tolerant soybeans
- input from crop production experts, and
- information available to state regulatory officials and contained in state reports.